What is claimed is:

1.   A picture processing apparatus, comprising:

determining means for determining whether or not an input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of an effective picture area; and

picture processing means for extracting a signal of the effective picture area from the input video signal, adjusting the picture size using the signal of the effective picture area, and combining the picture when the determined result of said determining means represents that the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area.

2.   The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein said picture processing means performs a multiple-picture displaying process for adjusting the picture sizes of a plurality of input video signals of a plurality of sources and combining pictures corresponding to the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources on the background screen.

3.   The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein said picture processing means performs a reduced picture displaying process for

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reducing the picture size of the input video signal and combining the reduced picture on the background screen.

4.   The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

        wherein said determining means determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area corresponding to information of an interface to which the input video signal is input.

5.   The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

        wherein said determining means determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area corresponding to information superimposed with or added to the input video signal.

6.   The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

        wherein said determining means detects a non signal portion of the input video signal and determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area.

7.   The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein said determining means determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area corresponding to information contained in a transport stream that is transmitted.

8.   A picture processing method, comprising the steps of:

_   (a) determining whether or not an input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of an effective picture area; and

(b) extracting a signal of the effective picture area from the input video signal, adjusting the picture size using the signal of the effective picture area, and combining the picture when the determined result at step (a) represents that the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area.

9.   The picture processing method as set forth in claim 8,

wherein step (b) is performed by adjusting the picture sizes of a plurality of input video signals of a plurality of sources and combining pictures corresponding to the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources on the background screen.

10.   The picture processing method as set forth in

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claim 8,

wherein step (b) is performed by reducing the
picture size of the input video signal and combining
the reduced picture on the background screen.

5   11.   The picture processing method as set forth in
claim 8,

wherein step (a) is performed corresponding
to information of an interface to which the input video
signal is input.

10   12.   The picture processing method as set forth in
claim 8,

wherein step (a) is performed corresponding
to information superimposed with or added to the input
video signal.

15   13.   The picture processing method as set forth in
claim 8,

wherein step (a) is performed by detecting a
non-signal portion of the input video signal and
determining whether or not the input video signal is a
20   signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the
periphery of the effective picture area.

14.   The picture processing method as set forth in
claim 8,

wherein step (a) is performed corresponding
25   to information contained in a transport stream that is
transmitted.